

SOUTH CAROLINIANS ARE READY FOR A NEW DIRECTION

Under the leadership of President Bush and his Republican allies in Congress, life has become more difficult for South Carolinians. Here are some of the ways that life has become less affordable and secure in South Carolina. Democrats are working for real security, better jobs, college access for all, energy independence, affordable health care, and retirement security. It's time for a new direction in South Carolina.

INCOME: SOUTH CAROLINIANS ARE EARNING LESS TODAY THAN THEY WERE FIVE YEARS AGO

- In 2000, the median income in South Carolina was \$ 42,650.¹
- In 2005, the median income in South Carolina was \$ 40,107, a significant drop of 6.0 percent.²

HEALTH CARE: THE NUMBER OF UNINSURED IN SOUTH CAROLINA HAS GROWN UNDER BUSH REPUBLICANS

- In 2000, South Carolina had 481,000 adults without insurance (12.2 percent).³
- In 2005, South Carolina had 741,000 adults without insurance (17.7 percent).⁴
- South Carolina had 80,646 children benefit from the SCHIP Program.⁵

EDUCATION: THE COST OF COLLEGE CONTINUES TO RISE IN SOUTH CAROLINA

- In 2001, tuition at a public four-year institution in South Carolina was \$9,065.⁶ In 2005, it was \$12,165, a 34 percent increase.⁷
- In 2001, tuition at a private four-year institution in South Carolina was \$17,583.⁸ In 2005, it was \$21,237, a 21 percent increase.⁹
- Number of South Carolinians affected by the lapse of the College Tuition Tax Deduction – 36,364¹⁰
- Number of South Carolinians affected by the lapse of the Educator Expenses Tax Deduction – 43,673¹¹

GAS PRICES: THE HIGH COST OF GAS CONTINUES TO BE A BURDEN FOR SOUTH CAROLINA RESIDENTS

- In 2001, the average cost of gas in South Carolina was \$1.312 a gallon.¹²
- Today the average cost of gas in South Carolina is \$2.184 a gallon.¹³
- In 2001, the average annual cost of gas for a household in South Carolina was \$2,196.¹⁴
- Today the average annual cost of gas for a household in South Carolina is \$3,655, \$1,459 (66.5 percent) more than it was in 2001.¹⁵

SOCIAL SECURITY: SOUTH CAROLINIANS DON'T WANT AN END TO SOCIAL SECURITY

- Number of Social Security Beneficiaries in South Carolina – 750,970¹⁶
- Average Monthly Benefit per Beneficiary in South Carolina – \$847¹⁷

IRAQ, TROOPS AND VETERANS: SOUTH CAROLINIANS ON THE FRONT LINES

- Number of South Carolinians killed in Iraq – 37¹⁸
- Number of South Carolinians wounded in Iraq – 251¹⁹
- Number of South Carolinians killed in Afghanistan – 9²⁰
- Number of South Carolinians wounded in Afghanistan – 22²¹
- Number of Veterans in South Carolina – 413,551²²

REPUBLICANS CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR GIVEAWAYS FOR A WEALTHY MINORITY WHILE IGNORING SOUTH CAROLINA'S MINIMUM WAGE WORKERS

- Only 263 estates in South Carolina paid an Estate Tax in 2004.²³
- Only 48 estates in South Carolina will benefit from the Estate Tax cut in 2009.²⁴
- In contrast, 179,000 workers in South Carolina would benefit from an increase in the minimum wage.²⁵

CRIME: FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY POLICING IS DISAPPEARING

- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2002 – \$6,751,077²⁶
- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2006 – \$5,285,703²⁷

TAX CUTS: BUSH TAX POLICIES BENEFIT THE WEALTHIEST SOUTH CAROLINIANS

The Bush tax cuts have overwhelmingly benefited the wealthiest South Carolinians.

- In 2001, the richest one percent of South Carolina residents each received an average of \$2,066 in tax cuts, while middle class South Carolina residents received only \$355.²⁸
- In 2006, the richest one percent of South Carolina residents will receive an average of \$24,347 in tax cuts, while middle class South Carolina residents will only receive \$625.²⁹
- In 2010, under the Bush tax plan, the richest one percent of South Carolina residents will each receive an average of \$45,306 in tax cuts, while middle class South Carolina residents will only receive \$696.³⁰

The richest South Carolinians receive an ever-growing share of the Bush tax cut.

- In 2001, the richest South Carolinians received 5.3 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class received 17.9 percent of the tax cut.³¹
- But, in 2006, the richest South Carolinians will get 21.7 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 10.6 percent of the tax cut.³²
- And, in 2010, the richest South Carolinians will get 38.5 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 11.2 percent of the tax cut.³³

Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest South Carolinians.

- In 2010, the richest South Carolinians will receive an average of \$8,190 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That means the richest South Carolinians will be getting over 48.4 percent of all of the tax cut benefit.³⁴
- In contrast, in 2010, middle class South Carolinians will receive an average of \$13 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That's just 1.5 percent of the benefit going to the middle class.³⁵

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